The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

2

Story & Art by

Aya Shouoto

CHAPTER 4

I CAN'T LEAVE THIS HOUSE.

I CAN'T...

...RETURN TO THE OTHER SIDE.

Mystery House
CHAPTER 4
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The Mysterious Residents of Momochi House

Aoi Nanamori

When he was 7 years old, he wandered into Momochi House and was chosen as the Omamori-sama. He transforms into a nue to perform his duties, but it seems this role was meant for Himari.

Omamori-sama (Nue)

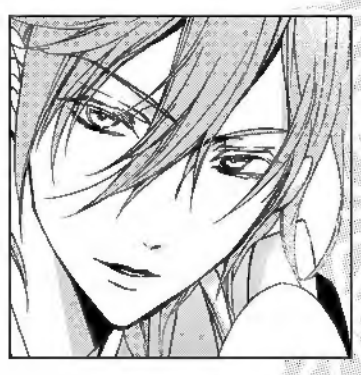
An ayakashi, or demon, with the ears of a cat, the wings of a bird, and the tail of a fox. As the Omamori-sama, the nue protects Momochi House and eliminates demons who make their way in from the spiritual realm.

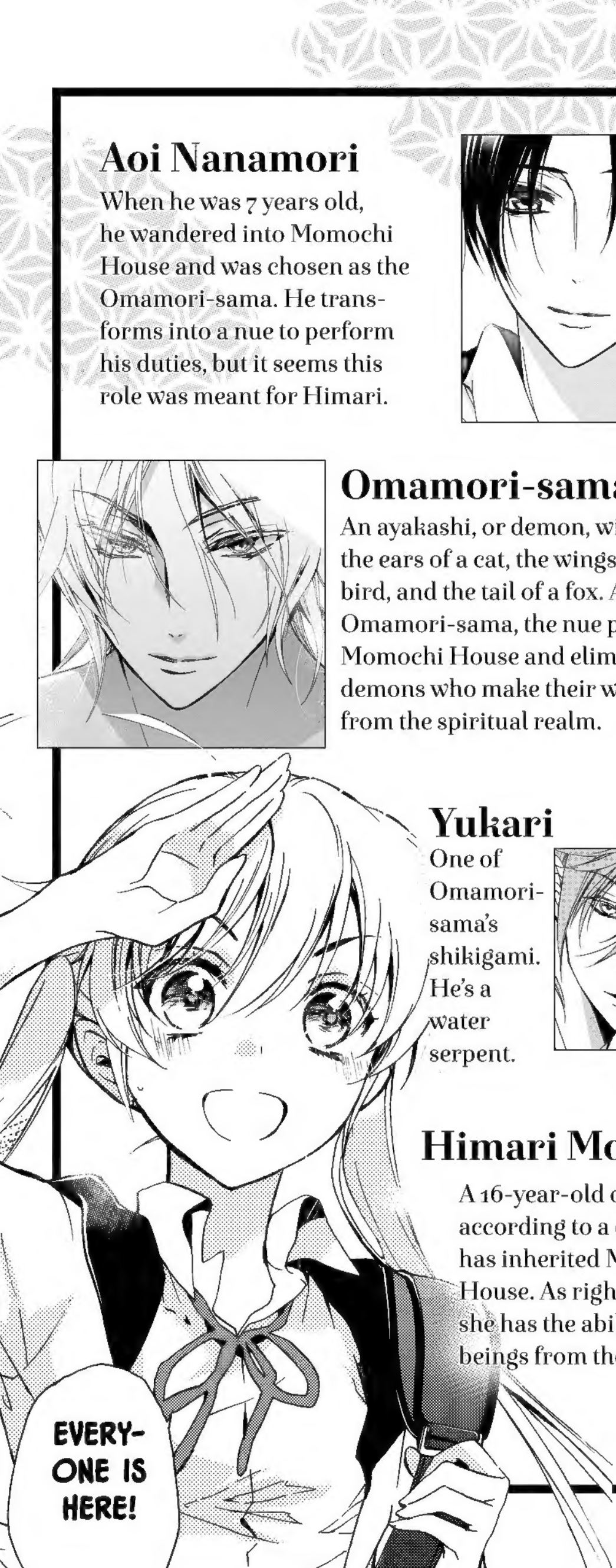
Ise

One of Omamori-sama's shikigami. He's an orangutan.

Yukari

One of Omamori-sama's shikigami. He's a water serpent.





Himari Momochi

A 16-year-old orphan who, according to a certain will, has inherited Momochi House. As rightful owner, she has the ability to expel beings from the house.

Lesser Yokai

Momochi House: Story Thus Far

On her sixteenth birthday, Himari Momochi receives a will stating that she has inherited a property known as Momochi House. She discovers it's already occupied by a boy named Aoi and two others, Yukari and Ise. Momochi House was built on the border between the human and spiritual realms. Aoi is actually the Omamori-sama, and can transform into a demon to protect Momochi House.

Himari is concerned when she sees how exhausted Aoi looks after performing his duties as the Omamori-sama. To cheer him up, she attempts to take him outside of Momochi House, but he is repelled at the entrance. Aoi says he can't leave the house or return to the other side...

GRAB

WHAT?

YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU'RE A RECLUSE...

?!

IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF BARRIER. ANYWAY, IT WON'T LET ME PASS.

AS YOU SEE, I JUST KEEP GETTING FORCED BACK.

DOES THAT MEAN YOU'VE NEVER BEEN OUTSIDE SINCE THEN?

AOI, YOU SAID YOU HAD WANDERED INTO MOMOCHI HOUSE...

...AND WERE CHOSEN TO BE THE OMAMORI-SAMA, RIGHT?

I HAVEN'T REALLY KEPT TRACK. BUT I GUESS...

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?

THAT'S RIGHT.

...IT WOULD BE ABOUT SEVEN YEARS.

SEVEN YEARS...

YOU'VE BEEN ALONE IN THIS PLACE AS THE OMAMORI-SAMA SINCE YOU WERE 10?

WHAT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY?!

YOUR FRIENDS?!

THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

I HAD MY SHIKIGAMI INVESTIGATE.

NO ONE REMEMBERS ME...

...OR EVEN KNOWS ABOUT ME.

APPARENTLY IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD...

...IT'S AS IF I NEVER EXISTED.

AOI!

IS THIS ALL RIGHT WITH YOU?!

THIS PLACE IS FORMI-DABLE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MOMOCHI HOUSE COULD ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

I'M FINE WITH IT.

I NEVER CARED TO GO BACK HOME...

...AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT NOW ANYWAY.

I FOUND A PLACE WHERE I BELONG.

I RATHER LIKE LIVING LIKE THIS.

BUT...

...I THINK IT'S BETTER IF YOU GO.

SNIP

BUT YOU MUST LEAVE.

HE WAS TELLING ME TO LEAVE...

...BEFORE I END UP LIKE HIM.

...BEHIND THOSE WORDS.

BACK THEN, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE MEANING...

CHIRP
CHIRP
RWL
DON'T YOU THINK HE'S A LITTLE TOO INNOCENT FOR HIS AGE?
ARE YOU LONELY?
YOU'RE TOO OLD TO DO THOSE THINGS!
IT'S NOT NORMAL!

I CAN'T EVEN CONCEIVE...

...HOW DEEP HIS LONELINESS MUST BE.

ARE YOU HUNGRY?

YUKARI.

TOK

CHAK

NOT AT ALL.

MY HEAD'S A MESS...

ARE YOU FEELING UNWELL?

YOU HAVEN'T LEFT YOUR ROOM ALL DAY.

PLEASE TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!

...SO I WAS HERE THE MOMENT HE WANDERED IN.

I'VE ALWAYS LIVED IN THIS HOUSE...

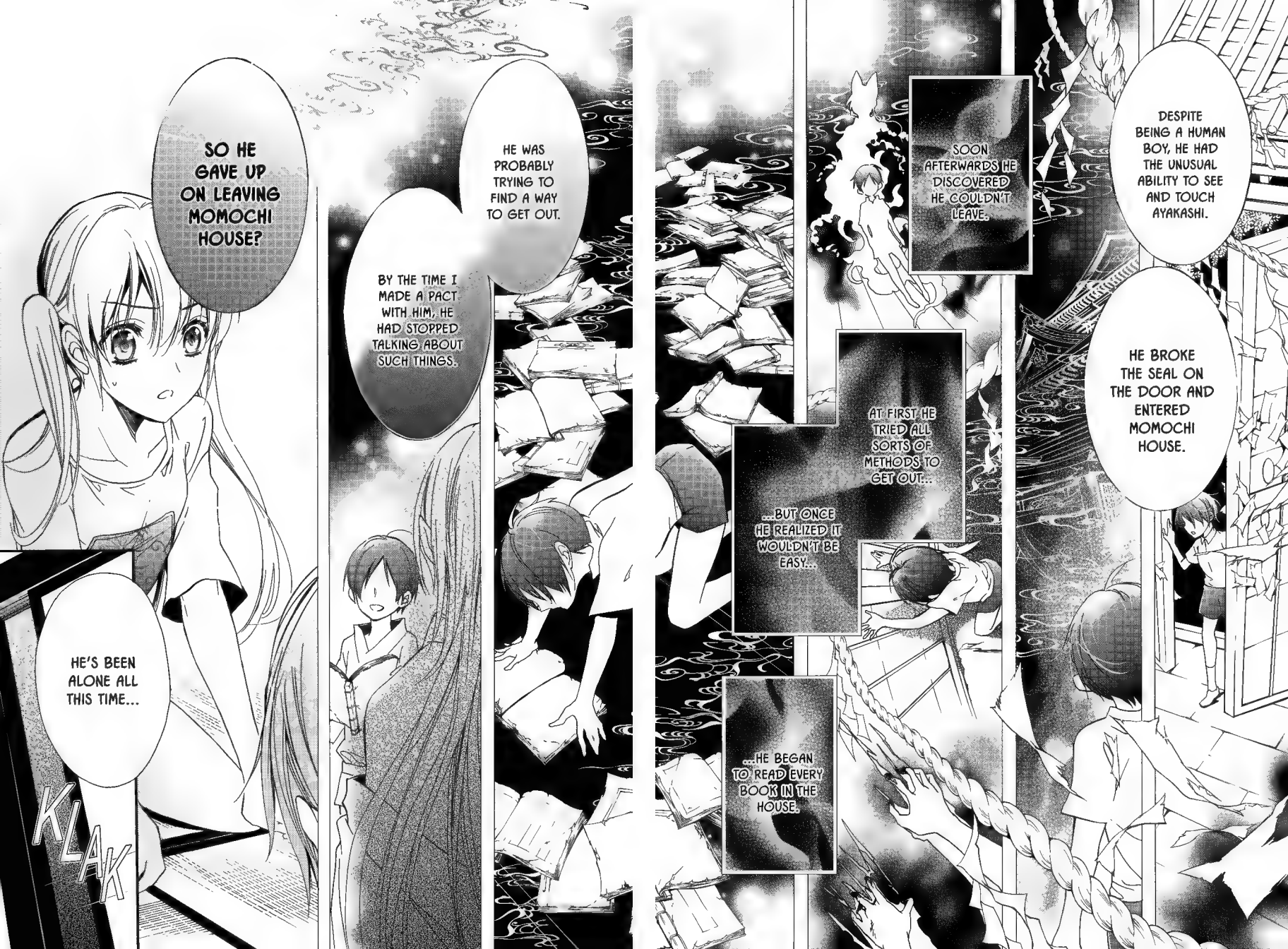
YOU KNEW THAT, RIGHT?

AOI HAS BEEN TRAPPED IN THIS HOUSE SINCE HE WAS 10.

...I DON'T KNOW HOW SUCH A YOUNG CHILD COULD HAVE WANDERED ALL THE WAY HERE...

THIS HOUSE IS IN SUCH A REMOTE AREA OF THE FOREST...

HE SEEMED TO BE RUNNING AWAY FROM SOMETHING.


DESPITE BEING A HUMAN BOY, HE HAD THE UNUSUAL ABILITY TO SEE AND TOUCH AYAKASHI.
HE BROKE THE SEAL ON THE DOOR AND ENTERED MOMOCHI HOUSE.
SOON AFTERWARDS HE DISCOVERED HE COULDN'T LEAVE.
AT FIRST HE TRIED ALL SORTS OF METHODS TO GET OUT...
...BUT ONCE HE REALIZED IT WOULDN'T BE EASY...
...HE BEGAN TO READ EVERY BOOK IN THE HOUSE.
HE WAS PROBABLY TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO GET OUT.
BY THE TIME I MADE A PACT WITH HIM, HE HAD STOPPED TALKING ABOUT SUCH THINGS.
SO HE GAVE UP ON LEAVING MOMOCHI HOUSE?
HE'S BEEN ALONE ALL THIS TIME...
KLAK

DESPITE BEING A HUMAN BOY, HE HAD THE UNUSUAL ABILITY TO SEE AND TOUCH AYAKASHI.

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HE'S BEEN ALONE ALL THIS TIME...

KLAK

BY THE TIME I MADE A PACT WITH HIM, HE HAD STOPPED TALKING ABOUT SUCH THINGS.

HE WAS PROBABLY TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO GET OUT.

WE'RE HERE. HE'S NOT ALONE.

BUT YOU'RE AYAKASHI. AOI IS HUMAN.

AND WHAT CAN A REGULAR HUMAN LIKE YOU DO FOR AOI?

WE SHIKIGAMI ...

...UNLIKE HUMANS...

...WILL NEVER BETRAY HIM.

I...!

WE CAN PROTECT HIM...

...AND STAY BY HIS SIDE ALL THE TIME.

WE'LL BE WITH HIM UNTIL HE DIES.

I'M THE OWNER HERE!

THIS PLACE IS MY INHERI-TANCE.

SO I SHOULD-

GRIP

IF YOU'RE THINKING OF FREEING AOI BY TAKING HIS PLACE AS THE OMAMORI-SAMA...

...YOU SHOULD PUT IT OUT OF YOUR MIND.

...

BLUSH

EVEN IF YOU WERE ABLE TO DO IT...

...DO YOU THINK IT WOULD MAKE AOI HAPPY?

FEELING SORRY FOR HIM WON'T MAKE HIM HAPPY.

THEN WHAT CAN I DO FOR HIM?

BUT SMILING UNDER THESE CIRCUM-STANCES IS HARD.

SMILE.

BUT I WON'T...

...HURTS.

THINKING ABOUT WHAT AOI HAS GONE THROUGH...

I DON'T WANT MY FEELINGS TO TURN INTO PITY.

...PITY HIM.

BAM

AOI!

THERE'S A SWARM OF DEMONS IN THE WESTERN PASSAGEWAY!

WUP

...

AOI! I HAD A LOOK ON THE OTHER SIDE. THERE'S A BUNCH OF THEM!

IF WE DON'T GET THEM UNDER CONTROL SOON-

TMP TMP TMP

YUKARI, ISE...

...THE DEMONS IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM HAVE BEEN RESTLESS. THEY'RE TRYING TO FORCE THEIR WAY INTO THIS WORLD THROUGH MOMOCHI HOUSE.

SWIP

OH, HIMARI...

EVER SINCE THAT MOMOCHI GIRL CAME...

I JUST PLACED A BARRIER HERE NOT TOO LONG AGO.

I SAW HER EARLIER! SHE WAS HEADING OUT THE GATE CARRYING A LARGE BAG.

PYOP

I DON'T SEE HIMARI.

IS SHE STILL IN HER ROOM? YOU CHECKED IN ON HER YESTERDAY, RIGHT?

WE TALKED FOR A BIT, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE.

IT'S WHAT YOU WANTED, AOI, RIGHT?

THERE'S NO WAY AN ORDINARY GIRL COULD LIVE IN A WEIRD HOUSE LIKE THIS.

I FIGURED SHE WOULD.

THAT GIRL FINALLY LEFT!

WHAT?

WOULD YOU CHECK ON HER, YUKARI?

I CANNOT OBEY THAT REQUEST.

YES, BUT...

...

HIMARI IS A MOMOCHI. EVEN IF SHE LEAVES THIS HOUSE, THERE'S NO GUARANTEE SHE WON'T BE ATTACKED BY A DEMON.

I WON'T BE ABLE TO RELAX UNTIL SHE'S FAR AWAY FROM THIS PLACE.

YUKARI...

I WON'T LEAVE YOUR SIDE WHEN YOU'RE FACING THIS MANY DEMONS AT ONCE.

IT'S OUR DUTY TO PROTECT YOU.

...

IF WE HOLD THEM BACK IN HERE, THEY CAN'T GO AFTER THE GIRL.

ALL RIGHT...

SWIP

I JUST HAVE TO GET THIS DONE QUICKLY, RIGHT?

DO YOU WANT TO GO OUT OUTSIDE?

I'M JUST WAITING FOR HIM TO GET BACK.

ISE IS CHECKING ON HIMARI TO MAKE SURE SHE MADE IT SAFELY DOWN THE MOUNTAIN.

AOI...

...

WHY NOT COME FARTHER INTO THE HOUSE?

JUMP

...IS WHAT YOU WANTED, WASN'T IT?

...AND RETURN SAFELY TO THE HUMAN WORLD...

HAVING HIMARI LEAVE...

YES.

EVEN SO...

...I WANTED TO WALK HER HOME WITH MY OWN TWO FEET...

...AND I WANTED IT TO BE MY HANDS THAT WAVED HER GOODBYE...

STEP

...

IF I CAN'T EVER SEE HER AGAIN–

SHAA

URGH...

KRRRRRRK

GRIP

–SHE WON'T KNOW HOW I FEEL.

THWIP

WU

AAAH! GET OUT OF THE WAY!!

WHOOSH

NK

!

HIMARI...

GRAB

I'M HOME!

A- AOI?!

WHAT ARE ALL THESE THINGS?

I CARRIED YOU AND YOUR THINGS HERE. SHOW A LITTLE GRATITUDE.

BUT THE LANDING WAS TER- RIBLE!

I'M REALLY THANKFUL FOR THAT! THANK YOU!

SWIP

I, UH, WAS CARRYING TOO MANY THINGS, AND I LOST MY BALANCE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE PUT ME DOWN GENTLY!

SHUT UP.

TMP

I FIGURED I SHOULD BUY SOME NECESSITIES.

I'M GOING TO BE HERE FOR A WHILE.

I ENDED UP GETTING A WHOLE BUNCH OF THINGS I THOUGHT WOULD BE HANDY.

"FOR A WHILE"?

I...

I'M GOING TO FIND A WAY FOR YOU TO LEAVE MOMOCHI HOUSE!

I DON'T QUITE KNOW WHAT THIS PLACE IS YET...

...BUT I'M THE LAND-LADY...

...SO I'M GOING TO CHECK OUT THIS HOUSE THOROUGHLY AND FIGURE IT OUT.

I'M SURE I'LL FIND A WAY.

AOI...

I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO KICK YOU OUT OF HERE.

HIMARI...

B-BMP
WELCOME BACK.

BUT...
IF YOU KICK ME OUT, I'LL HAVE NOWHERE TO GO.
PLEASE DON'T DO THAT...

BUT...

IF YOU KICK ME OUT, I'LL HAVE NOWHERE TO GO.

PLEASE DON'T DO THAT...

B-BACK

WELCOME BACK.

I WON'T LET THESE FEELINGS...

...TURN TO PITY OR ANYTHING ELSE...

...BECAUSE I'M SURE...

...I LOVE YOU.

Chapter 4/End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

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CHAPTER
5

A Formidable New Shikigami?!

WADDLE

I'M LEAVING THIS HOUSE!

BONK

THIS ALL STARTED WHEN I INTERRUPTED HIS NAP WHILE EXPLORING THE HOUSE...

AHH...

WHAT HAPPENED, HIMARI?

AS LONG AS THAT GIRL IS HERE, I CAN'T STAY IN THIS PLACE!

SHUT UP! IT'S NO USE TRYING TO STOP ME!

DON'T DO IT! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ONCE YOU LEAVE?!

STOP!

STOP!

SQUABBLE

FWOOSH

HUH? WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO HIM IF HE LEAVES?!

COULD YOU STOP HIM? WHEN LESSER YOKAI LEAVE MOMOCHI HOUSE, THEIR POWERS DECREASE TO THE POINT THAT THEY'RE UNABLE TO MAINTAIN THEIR FORM.

I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!

CHILLS

HE'LL TURN INTO SOMETHING HIDEOUS AND TERRIFYING!

SUFF

TOO LATE...

!

I-IS HE REALLY THAT TERRIFYING?!

AAAGH!

HUH ?!

AAGH...

Yuck!

WE TRIED TO WARN HIM! HE'S SO TERRIFYING!

WHAT ?

Eek!!

LITTLE SISTER?

MY LITTLE SISTER WON'T RECOGNIZE ME IN THIS HIDEOUS FORM!

Aaagh!

MY...

Beautiful

THEY CALL THAT UGLY?

Ugly

POUT

I'M ONLY DOING MY DUTIES AS THE LAND-LADY!

I...

I DON'T LIKE HOW THAT GIRL IS MAKING A MESS OF THIS HOUSE!

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT, ANYWAY?

...I'LL FIND A WAY TO KICK YOU OUT OF THIS HOUSE!

HMM...

FLUP FLUP

I TOLD YOU...

I NEED TO FIGURE OUT JUST WHAT MOMOCHI HOUSE IS!

KRAKKA-

BOOM

URK!

I WON'T LET YOU, LITTLE MISS!

WITHOUT OUR OMAMORI-SAMA, MOMOCHI HOUSE WOULD CRUMBLE.

EVIL DEMONS WOULD EMERGE FROM THE SPIRITUAL REALM...

...AND WE LESSER YOKAI WOULD LOSE OUR HOME.

THAT'S WHY...

...WE MUST PROTECT OUR HOME AND AOI! JUST WHO IS AT FAULT HERE?!

GRAB

THAT ASIDE, EVER SINCE SHE CAME HERE, THE ENERGY IN MOMOCHI HOUSE HAS BEEN IMBALANCED.

THE AYAKASHI HAVE BEEN DISTURBED.

ADMIST ALL THIS YOU WANT TO KICK AOI OUT? WHAT A TERRIFYING THOUGHT!

WHAT?!

IF ANYTHING, YOU SHOULD BE PROTECTING THIS PLACE ON YOUR OWN!

IGNORE

HMM...

FLUP FLUP

UNFORTUNATELY IT SEEMS I CAN'T TURN YOU BACK RIGHT AWAY...

YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING! THERE'S ONLY FIVE DAYS LEFT!

WHAT HAP-PENS THEN?

SHOVE

STOP ACTING LIKE A BABY!

HUGG

WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT OUR PRECIOUS AOI?

YOU CAN'T KEEP AOI TRAPPED IN THIS HOUSE FOREVER!

...ONMORAKI.

WHAT?

*An onmoraki is a bird demon.

IT'S THE NEW MOON OF THE SEVENTH MONTH.

EVERY YEAR, A LANTERN PROCESSION PASSES THROUGH MOMOCHI HOUSE...

...THE GATEWAY BETWEEN THIS WORLD AND THE SPIRITUAL REALM.

ONE OF MY DUTIES AS THE OMAMORI-SAMA IS TO SEE THAT IT PROCEEDS WITHOUT ANY DIFFICULTIES.

ONMORAKI'S YOUNGER SISTER WILL BE IN THE PROCESSION.

IT'S THE ONE TIME EACH YEAR THAT I CAN SEE HER. I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT...

YOU CAN SEE HER ONLY ONCE A YEAR?

YOU POOR THING.

Aoi!

THAT'S RIGHT! THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, LITTLE MISS!

KLUP

URGH!

I HAVE A SUGGESTION.

DON'T CLING TO AOI WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM US SHIKIGAMI.

VUP

WHO CARES?!

JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "ESPECIALLY CLOSE"?

SWAK

LET'S TAKE A BATH TOGETHER—

AH

HIMARI HAS A SPECIAL DISPOSITION THAT AGITATES AYAKASHI...

...SO IF SHE AND ONMORAKI WERE TO BECOME ESPECIALLY CLOSE, IT MIGHT BE A QUICK WAY FOR HIM TO REVIVE HIS ENERGY.

HUH?!

THE DAY OF THE LANTERN PROCESSION

THANK YOU, YUKARI.

YOU SHOULD BE IN PROPER DRESS FOR THE PROCESSION.

WOW, I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I WORE A YUKATA.

FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING THIS, HIMARI, BUT YOU SHOULD DRESS IN A MORE FEMININE MANNER...

NOW, YUKARI...

I THINK THE ACTIVE WEAR HIMARI LIKES SUITS HER.

AOI...

POF

BUT YOU LOOK VERY NICE IN THIS TOO.

I'M SURE SHE'LL REALIZE WHO YOU ARE IF YOU CALL OUT HER NAME, ONMORAKI.

...

I'LL LOOK FOR HER IN THE PROCESSION.

I ASSUME YOUR SISTER LOOKS LIKE YOU, RIGHT?

HEY! DON'T CRY!

SNIFF SNIFF

AWW... IT'S ALMOST TIME, AND I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TURN BACK TO NORMAL...

Ah!

THEY'RE COMING.

SO THIS IS THE LANTERN PROCES-SION...

IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

BUT...

...I CAN'T SEE ANYONE'S FACE.

THEIR FACES ARE HIDDEN BY THE LIGHT OF THE LANTERNS.

YES...

SUFF

YOU SEE, HIMARI...

...THE LANTERN PROCESSION IS A PURIFICATION RITE...

...FOR THOSE WHO TOOK THEIR OWN LIVES.

A PURIFICATION RITE?

THEY MARCH ON FOR MONTHS OR YEARS...

...ARE ALLOWED TO GO NEAR.

NEITHER HUMANS NOR AYAKASHI...

...TRAVELING BETWEEN THIS WORLD AND THE NEXT THROUGH MOMOCHI HOUSE.

ONCE THEY HAVE BEEN ABSOLVED OF THEIR SINS, THEY LEAVE THE PROCESSION.

THE GATE-WAY BE-TWEEN THIS WORLD AND THE SPIRI-TUAL REALM ...

SO AOI DOESN'T JUST SEAL AND VANQUISH DEMONS...

AN!

WHERE'S AN?!

ONMORAKI'S SISTER IS AMONG THEM...

IT'S ME, YOUR BIG BROTHER! WHERE ARE YOU, AN?!

HE PROBABLY DOESN'T KNOW THIS, BUT...

...CAN HEAR OR EVEN SEE US.

...NO ONE IN THAT PROCES-SION...

DOES IT MEAN HE WON'T BE ABLE TO MEET HER THIS YEAR?

ONMORAKI WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND HIS SISTER UNLESS HE CAN SEE HER FACE.

...WAS HOW HE "MET" HER EACH YEAR.

MAKING HIMSELF VISIBLE ON THE SIDELINES...

I'M GOING TO GO CALL HER NAME WITH HIM.

HIMARI...

...

HE BELIEVED HIS SISTER WAS WATCHING HIM FROM THE PROCESSION?

AAAAGH!

IT'S A SOUL EATER...

THIS IS BAD!

ONMORAKI! YOU MUST STAY AWAY FROM THE PROCESSION OR YOU'LL END UP LIKE THEM!

DASH

BUT MY SISTER IS THERE!

IF HER SOUL IS DEVOURED...

...SHE WON'T BE REBORN AS A HUMAN OR AN AYAKASHI! I'LL NEVER SEE HER AGAIN!

DASH

HEY, SOUL EATER! I'M MUCH TASTIER THAN THEY ARE!

HIMARI ?!

MY ROLE IS TO WATCH OVER THE PROCESSION.

I'M NOT ALLOWED TO INTERFERE...

AOI!

CLENCH

HIMARI HAS A SPECIAL DISPOSITION THAT AGITATES AYAKASHI...

WHILE I'M DRAWING THIS DEMON AWAY, LEAD THE PROCESSION INTO THE HOUSE!

PLEASE LET ME HANDLE THIS, AOI!

DASH

GRIP

HIMARI...

YOU MUSTN'T, HIMARI!

IF ANYTHING, YOU SHOULD BE PROTECTING THIS PLACE ON YOUR OWN!

I WANT TO MAKE SURE MY SISTER HAS A SAFE JOURNEY...

...BY PROTECT-ING HER MYSELF!

...

VERY WELL...

YES!

ISE, YUKARI! INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LANTERNS AND DIRECT THE PROCESSION!

ONMYŌRAKI...

KNEEL BEFORE ME.

WOOO

THIS PACT WILL MAKE YOU MY SHIKIGAMI.

I SHALL FORM A BOND WITH YOU THAT WILL ACT AS A LIFELINE.

I ACCEPT.

I AM GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING FOR ME, OMAMORI-SAMA.

A SHIKIGAMI PACT...

HENCE-
FORTH...

...YOU WILL BE
MY SHIKIGAMI,
AND I SHALL
CALL YOU
ZUSHI.

DEMON BIRD ONMORAKI...

...USE YOUR POWER TO BRING DOWN THE SOUL EATER ABOVE!

A HUGE BLACK BIRD...

AS YOU COM-MAND!

R
O
A
A

THAT GIRL...

COULD SHE BE–?

TMP

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, OMAMORI-SAMA.

I OFFER MY SOUL TO YOU.

NOW THAT YOU'RE A SHIKIGAMI...

...YOU WILL BE LIKE THOSE IN THE PROCESSION WITH NO ESCAPE...

...ONLY YOU WILL BE BOUND TO ME.

VSSH

...AND I STAY IN THIS HOUSE...

BUT AS LONG AS THE PROCESSION IS SAFE...

YOUR SISTER...

TMP

I DIDN'T GET TO SEE HER.

...I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE HER NEXT YEAR.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

TMP

NEXT YEAR, THE YEAR AFTER THAT, AND BEYOND...

...WE'LL WATCH OVER IT TOGETHER.

AOI...

THAT'S RIGHT ...

THE RESI-DENTS OF MOMOCHI HOUSE...

...ARE BOUND TO-GETHER BY A DESIRE TO PRO-TECT AOI...

...AND A STRONG SENSE OF DUTY.

HIMARI...

COME ON.

LET'S GO HOME.

FOR NOW...

I WONDER WHAT I CAN DO FOR HIM.

...I'M SATISFIED THAT HE SQUEEZES MY HAND BACK.

Chapter 5/End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

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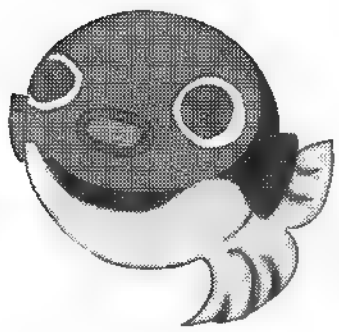
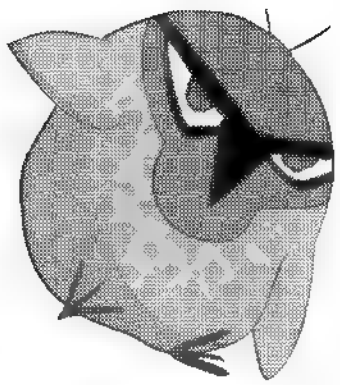
CHAPTER
6

Under-water Momochi House





I REFUSE TO ACCEPT THAT A LESSER YOKAI IS A SHIKIGAMI LIKE ME!

I'M NOT A LESSER YOKAI. OMAMORI-SAMA HAS GIVEN ME A NAME!

I AM ZUSHI NOW!

YOU SHOULD TALK, HIMARI.

POOF

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO GREAT JUST BECAUSE YOU GOT A NAME?!

KL AK

YARL

WAH

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?! YOU'LL DESTROY THE HOUSE!

YOU CAN CALL ME ZUSSHY!

D-DON'T TALK ABOUT ME LIKE I'M SOME SORT OF PLAGUE!

I'M JUST AN ORDINARY GIRL!

HUH?

EVER SINCE YOU CAME, WEIRD THINGS KEEP HAPPENING.

HAAH...

I SHUDDER TO THINK WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED WITHOUT AOI HERE.

ISE...!

IF A USELESS GIRL LIKE YOU HAD BECOME THE OMAMORI-SAMA OF MOMOCHI HOUSE...

GRR

SHUT UP

LISTEN, YOU-

EEK!

HIMARI... YOU FEEL SO NICE AND COOL...

?!

GLOM

AOI?!

...YOU FEEL REALLY HOT, AOI!

MORE LIKE ...

HM?

HUFF

!!

BOOM

STICK THIS IN YOUR ARMPIT AND-

WOBBLE

UHH...

YOU HAVE A FEVER. HOLD ON A SECOND!

HERE.

BEEP

I DIDN'T GET AROUND TO TELLING YOU BEFORE.

S-sorry, Aoi.

ACK?!

TMP TMP

DAZED

YES, HE HAS A FEVER.

PROBABLY BECAUSE THEY'RE OPPOSING ENTITIES.

THE OMAMORI-SAMA DESTROYS MECHANICAL DEVICES.

SUFF

SHUMP

?!

I WANT YOU TO SLEEP WITH ME...

MM...

I THINK IT IS. YOU'RE PROBABLY EXHAUSTED TOO, SO PLEASE GET SOME REST.

I WONDER IF IT'S THE FLU.

SKURRY

SKURRY

SLUMP

AH, WHENEVER AOI ISN'T FEELING WELL, HE'S LIKE A CHILD.

I SEE...

GO TO BED ON YOUR OWN!

I'M NOT SOME HUG PILLOW.

STOP CLINGING TO ME ONLY BECAUSE I FEEL WARM OR COOL...

IS THAT THE ONLY REASON WHY HE CLINGS TO ME?!

EVEN SO, I SHOULDN'T SLEEP NEXT TO HIM...

AOI'S BEEN TRAPPED IN MOMOCHI HOUSE SINCE HE WAS 10...

...SO HE STILL HAS A CHILD-LIKE WAY ABOUT HIM.

...LIKE WHAT HAPPENED WITH THAT ANCIENT CHERRY TREE.

DON'T GET ANY FUNNY IDEAS. WE DON'T WANT ANOTHER DEMON TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOU...

MRRR

...THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO FOR AOI.

I WISH...

Omamori-sama Suki

SOME-THING...

SOME-THING I CAN DO...

UMM...

I-I'M FINE. JUST SUR-PRISED.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, HIMARI?

I DIDN'T THINK THERE WOULD BE AN AYAKASHI IN THAT POT.

I should have expected it.

HEH HEH HEH HEH

WHOA!

GURG GURG

SHOULD I MAKE THE RICE GRUEL?

NO.

LET ME HANDLE THIS. PLEASE.

...I CAN DO.

THIS...

SO...

I MADE SOME RICE GRUEL FOR YOU.

HIMARI...

Low heat! Lower your heat!

BLUSH

IT GOT A LITTLE BURNT, THOUGH.

If you think of it as a baked risotto, it should be okay.

HEH

Aah...

THEN FEED ME.

HUH?

OKAY...

HMM?

I THINK I BURNED MY TONGUE.

OH, SORRY.

HOT!

HUH?

Was it that hot?

W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, AOI?!

EAR LOBES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE NICE AND COOL.

LICK

I'M GOING TO REMAKE IT!

HUH? WHAT ABOUT THE FOOD?

GO TO BED AND BEHAVE!

FWUMP

I KNOW YOU'RE ILL, BUT THAT'S GOING TOO FAR!

USUALLY AN AYAKASHI LIVING IN A POT WOULD TRY TO PULL ALL SORTS OF TERRIBLE PRANKS ON YOU.

BUT I THINK THOSE WHO LIVE HERE...

...AND MOMOCHI HOUSE ARE FOND OF YOU.

THANK YOU, HIMARI.

...

THAT WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY IF IT'S TRUE.

KLAK

THERE ARE STILL MANY THINGS I CAN'T DO WELL...

...BUT SOMEDAY I HOPE I CAN MAKE SOMEONE IN THIS HOUSE A LITTLE HAPPIER.

KLAK

UH, IT'S ALWAYS A LITTLE SCARY TO GO TO THE BATHROOM AT NIGHT.

GLOW

HM?

SPSH

ARE THERE DUTIES TO PERFORM AT THIS HOUR?

THE NUE...

HUH?

HE'S GONE.

DID I IMAGINE IT?

OH!

WHY HERE?

ACK! WHAT IS THIS? WATER?

I WAS ASLEEP THE WHOLE TIME. WHY DO YOU ASK?

OH. NO REASON.

LAST NIGHT?

IT MUST'VE BEEN MY IMAGINATION.

HMM...

N-NO I WASN'T! I'M TOO OLD FOR THAT!

YOU WERE HALF-ASLEEP AND TOO SCARED TO GO TO THE BATHROOM ON YOUR OWN.

I'M CERTAIN HE HAD NO DUTIES LAST NIGHT.

AH!

SMP

IT'S THE SAME AS LAST NIGHT.

MORE WATER...

...WITHIN MOMOCHI HOUSE?

WATER IS FLOWING FROM...

GUSH

SOMETHING MAY HAVE HAPPENED.

LET'S INVESTIGATE.

THIS ISN'T FROM A LEAKY ROOF.

I'M GOING WITH YOU!

WHY? YOU'LL JUST GET IN THE WAY!

You knew, huh?

IT'S LESS TROUBLESOME THAN HER FOLLOWING US SECRETLY LIKE USUAL.

NOW THEN...

DON'T LEAVE OUR SIDE, HIMARI.

YUKARI, DON'T LET HER-

THANKS, YUKARI!

GUSH

IT LOOKS LIKE IT COULD FILL THE ENTIRE HOUSE.

WE MUST HURRY. THE WATER IS MOVING QUICKLY.

GUSH

WSSSSH

THE WATER APPEARS TO BE COMING FROM BEHIND THOSE SLIDING DOORS.

IT'S IN-CREASING SO FAST!

SPASH

SPASH

SLIDE

IT'S A ROOM OF WATER!

...

THE WATER ISN'T POURING OUT...

THIS WAS PROBABLY CREATED BY AN AYAKASHI.

FROM THIS POINT ON, WE'LL BE WITHIN ITS DOMAIN.

SWALLOW THIS.

C-CANDY?

IT WILL ENABLE YOU TO BREATHE UNDERWATER.

IT'S LIKE I'M REALLY ON THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN...

...EVEN THOUGH I'M STILL INDOORS.

NOW LET'S GO.

IT SEEMS....

...THAT CLAM IS THE MASTER OF THIS WATERY DOMAIN.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

POP

WHAT DO SHIKIGAMI WANT WITH ME?

AN AYAKASHI!

A "SHIN"...

*A shin is a shapeshifting demon clam that creates illusions

WHY IS AN ANCIENT DEMON LIKE YOU...

...DOING SUCH A CHILDISH THING LIKE FLOODING MOMOCHI HOUSE?!

CHILDISH?

...SO I'M TRYING TO COOL HIM OFF.

AOI KEEPS SAYING THAT IT'S HOT...

SH

I FIGURED I WOULD TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO FILL THE HOUSE WITH WATER...

...AND PAY AOI-OR RATHER, THE NUE-A VISIT.

EEK!

OOM

AOI...

...CALLED OUT TO HER UNCON-SCIOUSLY?

HO HO HO...

HO HO HO HO...

AT THIS RATE, MOMOCHI HOUSE WILL END UP SUBMERGED.

WE MUST DO WHATEVER WE CAN...

...TO GET HER TO LEAVE!

WILL DO, YUKARI!

DAMN IT.

I DON'T WORK WELL IN WATER...

SHOOM

I'LL LURE HER BACK INTO HER SHELL.

WHEN I DO, I WANT YOU TO TRAP HER IN THERE!

GOT IT!

GR

AB

URK!

HOW ABOUT THIS?

WOOSH

NOT VERY CLEVER, ARE YOU?

WILL YOU TRAP ME IN MY SHELL WHILE SHE'S WITH ME?

!!

GURG

I MUSTN'T GET IN THE WAY!

HIMARI!

I CAN MAKE IT OUT JUST IN TIME!

?!

HOLD

MOVE.

ISE, CLOSE THE SHELL! NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!

STOP TAKING SO MANY RISKS.

THE NUE!

AH...

IT'S THE NUE.

YOU CAME TO SEE ME.

I'M SO HAPPY...

YOUR TONGUE!

THAT ON YOUR TONGUE...

AH.

EEEK!

I'LL BRING THE WHOLE HOUSE INTO MY UNDERWATER REALM...

NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO LEAVE!

ISE, YUKARI!

YES!

THAT BURN...

OH!

HEH.

I GUESS YOU DON'T CARE MUCH FOR THE MARK THAT GIRL LEFT ON ME...

IT'S A BURN.

W- WAIT...

WAIT!

KLAMP

THE PREVIOUS NUE?

...

I'M STILL QUITE INEXPERIENCED.

FORGIVE MY ILL MANNERS.

THE PREVIOUS NUE WOULD NEVER TREAT ME IN SUCH A HORRIBLE WAY!

AND TRY NOT TO EXERT YOURSELF AT YOUR ADVANCED AGE.

HOW DARE YOU!

YOU WON'T BE ARROGANT FOR MUCH LONGER!

IF YOU KEEP USING THAT POWER...

...YOU'LL EVENTUALLY—

ISE!

YUKARI!

SECURED!

JUST THEN...

THE ROOM IS BACK TO NORMAL NOW.

SHF

IT'S HUGE...

...TO REMOVE THIS TO THE SPIRITUAL REALM.

I THINK IT'S BEST...

T H U K

PLIP

WHAT DID THAT AYAKASHI MEAN?

IF YOU KEEP USING THAT POWER...

AOI! HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

DASH

HONESTLY, YOU'RE SO RECKLESS...

THE COOL WATER FELT GOOD. I THINK I'M BETTER NOW.

OH...

UHHH

I'M GLAD AOI'S FEVER WENT DOWN...

...BUT NOW...

AOI...

SHE MAY HAVE CAUGHT IT FROM ME.

...IT SEEMS SHE CAUGHT A COLD AFTER BEING IN ALL THAT WATER.

YOU CAN GIVE IT BACK TO ME IF YOU WANT.

SMILE

IF AOI CONTINUES TO USE HIS POWERS...

...TO HIM?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN...

DON'T DO THAT!!

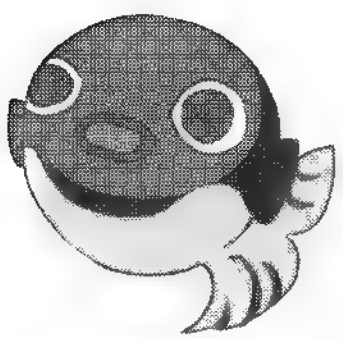
Chapter 6/End

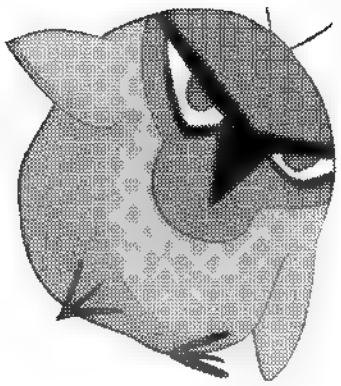
The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

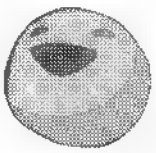
The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

CHAPTER 7

The Fourth Friend: Part 1







PHOO

KLUP

YAWN

I'M AT SCHOOL.

I'M HIMARI MOMOCHI!

I JUST TRANSFERRED HERE FROM TOKYO.

FIDGET

SHE TRANSFERRED RIGHT BEFORE SUMMER BREAK...

...SO INTRODUCE YOURSELVES, AND MAKE AN EFFORT TO BE FRIENDS WITH HER.

FIDGET

WHOA, I'M SUCH A STEREO-TYPICAL TRANSFER STUDENT.

I'm so nervous.

THEN WHY DON'T YOU SIT IN THE FAR BACK BY THE WINDOW?

OKAY!

SURE...

OOH, A GOOD IMPRES-SION.

UH, YOU'LL BE SITTING... HOW ABOUT THAT EMPTY SEAT OVER THERE?

TEACHER, THAT'S HIDAKA'S DESK.

O-OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

DONG DONG DONG DONG

TNK TNK

IT MUST BE NICE TO BE FROM TOKYO.

YOU MUST BE SHOCKED. THIS PLACE IS SO RURAL.

NOT AT ALL.

I'M FROM THE OUT-SKIRTS OF TOKYO, NOT THE CITY CENTER.

YOU'RE JUST BEING NICE.

THANK GOODNESS. THEY SEEM EASY TO GET ALONG WITH.

THE BREAK AFTER EXAMS HAS ENDED.

IF I DON'T GO TO SCHOOL SOON, THEY'LL WITHDRAW MY TRANSFER REQUEST.

I SEE...

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!

OH... SCHOOL...

RIGHT?

THE TRUTH IS...

SEE YOU LATER.

...YOU LIVE IN THE HAUNTED HOUSE IN THE FOREST?!

...AOI IS THE RIGHT AGE TO BE GOING TO THIS SCHOOL AS WELL...

...BUT HE'S UNABLE TO LEAVE THE HOUSE.

MOMOCHI...? IS IT POSSIBLE...

KLATT

...YOU LIVE IN THAT BIG MANSION DEEP IN THE NORTHERN MOUNTAINS?

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

OH

YOU MEAN...

MRMR

UM... IT'S JUST AN ORDINARY HOUSE!

HA HA

YURY

THE MADE-UP HORROR STORIES ABOUT THAT PLACE ARE RUBBISH. DON'T BE FOOLED.

THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS AS DEMONS OR MONSTERS.

THEY'RE SIMPLY FIGMENTS OF A WEAK HUMAN MIND.

...

B-BUT MY GRANDMA ALWAYS WARNED ME.

SHE SAID TO STAY AWAY FROM MOMOCHI HOUSE...

...OR THE OMAMORI-SAMA WILL CURSE ME!

THAT'S JUST LOCAL SUPERSTI-TION.

BUT ...

MRMR

MRMR ...

I WAS A BIT SCARED WHEN I FIRST HEARD THAT WARNING ABOUT MOMOCHI HOUSE...

SNFF
SNFF
SNFF
...
I JUST REAL-IZED...
...BUT THE REAL OMAMORI-SAMA DOESN'T CURSE PEOPLE.
SHMP
SHMP
SHMP
SHMP
...I'M TOTALLY BEING FOLLOWED!
SHUP
SHUP
SHUP
SHUMP
THEY'RE ALL SO CAREFREE ABOUT IT!
I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T WANT TO DO THIS...
WERE YOU SUR-PRISED??
IN-DEED.
MOMOCHI IS PRETTY SHARP, ISN'T SHE?!
SH-SHE NOTICED US.
UM...
HELLO...?

AIKA TORII

TADASHI SENOO

RUI MADARAME

HANA IIZUKA

WE WERE HOPING WE COULD COME TO YOUR HOUSE.

IS THAT ALL RIGHT?

WHAT? B-BUT IT'S DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS. IT'LL TAKE YOU A LONG TIME TO GET HOME.

AND EVEN IF YOU DO COME OVER, THERE'S NOTHING INTERESTING TO DO!

THAT'S OKAY!

IT'S ALWAYS FUN GOING TO A FRIEND'S HOUSE!

BA-BUMP

HUH? ISN'T THAT IT OVER THERE?

SWEF

WHOA! WE'RE ALREADY HERE?!

BAM!!

WOW, THIS PLACE IS HUGE.

THAT'S AMAZING, HIMARI! ARE YOU SOME KIND OF CELEBRITY?

N-NO, NOT REALLY.

SLAP

TH-THIS IS AMAZING. MOMOCHI HOUSE ACTUALLY EXISTS!

KNOCK IT OFF, OCCULT FREAK.

WE NEED TO SNAP THIS GUY OUT OF HIS DELUSIONS.

SIGH

TROMP

PARDON OUR INTRUSION...

HEY! HOLD ON JUST A MINUTE!

TROMP

THIS IS BAD.

THE HOUSE IS REALLY MESSY...

...AND SINCE I'M HAVING FRIENDS OVER WITHOUT NOTICE...

THIS IS REALLY BAD.

IT WOULD BE BAD...

WAIT HERE. I'LL BE BACK IN A SEC.

MY FAMILY WILL BE CAUGHT OFF GUARD.

MY FAMILY!

...IF THEY DISCOVERED THE TRUTH.

HUH?

ANYWAY, I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU, YUKARI!

OKAY... I UNDERSTAND.

STEEES

EH? I DON'T UNDER-STAND.

?

IT WOULD BE BAD IF THEY DISCOVERED I'M LIVING WITH A BUNCH OF GUYS!

JUST DO IT... THIS IS AN EMERGENCY.

Don't ask me why.

HIMARI!

TAK

SURE THING! EVERYTHING IS FINE.

CAN WE COME IN ALREADY?

I COULD GET LOST IN HERE...

IT'S AMAZING ON THE INSIDE TOO. IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A PERIOD DRAMA.

WOW ...

THANKS FOR HAVING US!

HUH? THEY'RE PROBABLY OUT AT THE MOMENT OR BUSY.

WHERE'S YOUR FAMILY?

THIS IS EXACTLY THE SORT OF PLACE WHERE SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS COULD HAPPEN!

BUT I HEARD VOICES...

KNOCK IT OFF. YOU'RE A GUEST HERE.

WOW...

ALL BECAUSE...

KLATT

KLATT

I FEEL BAD, BUT...

...I'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET EVERYONE TO LEAVE.

MOMOCHI HOUSE WAS BUILT ON THE BORDER OF THIS WORLD AND THE NEXT.

I'LL MAKE SOME TEA. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

...THERE ARE DEMONS LIVING IN THIS HOUSE.

HISS

I-IT'S PROBABLY A STRAY CAT!

RIGHT ?!

SKEDADDLE

URK

I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOME TEA.

!!!

TA-DAH

I'M HIMARI'S OLDER SISTER, YUKARIKO.

TA-DAH

TA-DAH

THIS IS THE SECOND OLDEST, ISEKO.

AND THE THIRD OLDEST, AOIKO.

WELCOME TO MOMOCHI HOUSE.

SMILE

LISTEN, I'M GOING TO TELL THEM THAT I'M LIVING WITH MY THREE OLDER SISTERS.

I-I WASN'T EXPECT-ING THIS!

GASP

THREE BEAUTIFUL SISTERS LIVING IN A MYSTERIOUS HOUSE!

HELLO.

THANK YOU FOR HAVING US OVER.

YOUR OLDER SISTERS ARE SO BEAUTIFUL.

I THOUGHT I TOLD THEM CLEARLY!!!

DON'T COME OUT WHILE MY FRIENDS ARE HERE, OKAY?

REEL

I can't believe this.

I can't believe this

RIGHT, HIMARI?

FOUR SISTERS.

AOI, DON'T CLING TO ME.

...

THIS HOUSE REALLY SUITS THEM, DOESN'T IT?

IT SURE DOES.

UM... UMM...

WHAT'S WITH ALL THOSE STUFFED ANIMALS IN THE BACK?

FROZEN

THEY CAME OUT TOO?!

PRETENDING TO BE PLUSHIES

WHAT?! HEY!

OH, THOSE?

OUR ISEKO ADORES PLAYING WITH DOLLS.

EVEN AT HER AGE, SHE'S STILL SUCH A CHILD.

I NEVER EXPECTED ISE TO BE A FAVORITE!

HUH?!

Ya think?

SHUDDER

KLASP

NOT AT ALL! IT'S A FITTING PASTIME FOR SOMEONE AS BEAUTIFUL AS ISEKO!

I'M SORRY, EVERYONE. DO YOU MIND WAITING HERE?

NO, GO RIGHT AHEAD.

GLOW

HUH?

HIMARI...

...BUT I WANT YOU TO HELP ME PICK OUT A KIMONO.

SORRY TO DO THIS WHILE YOUR FRIENDS ARE HERE...

This is weird but cute!

?

ME?!

BIG SISTER ISEKO, PLEASE ENTERTAIN OUR GUESTS.

HUGG!

KLAK

MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME.

VUp

I-IS HE MAD AT ME?!

THERE'S NOTHING STRANGE ABOUT IT IF WE'RE SISTERS.

H-HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO CLING TO ME?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE US DRESS LIKE THIS.

Where did you even get those clothes?!

HUH?!

I DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS. I ONLY–

YUKARI...

WHAT? THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU WANTED?

SMILE

YOU LOOK REALLY GOOD IN THAT, BUT NO!

ANYWAY, HIMARI...

WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM.

LISTEN CLOSELY...

O-OH. SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

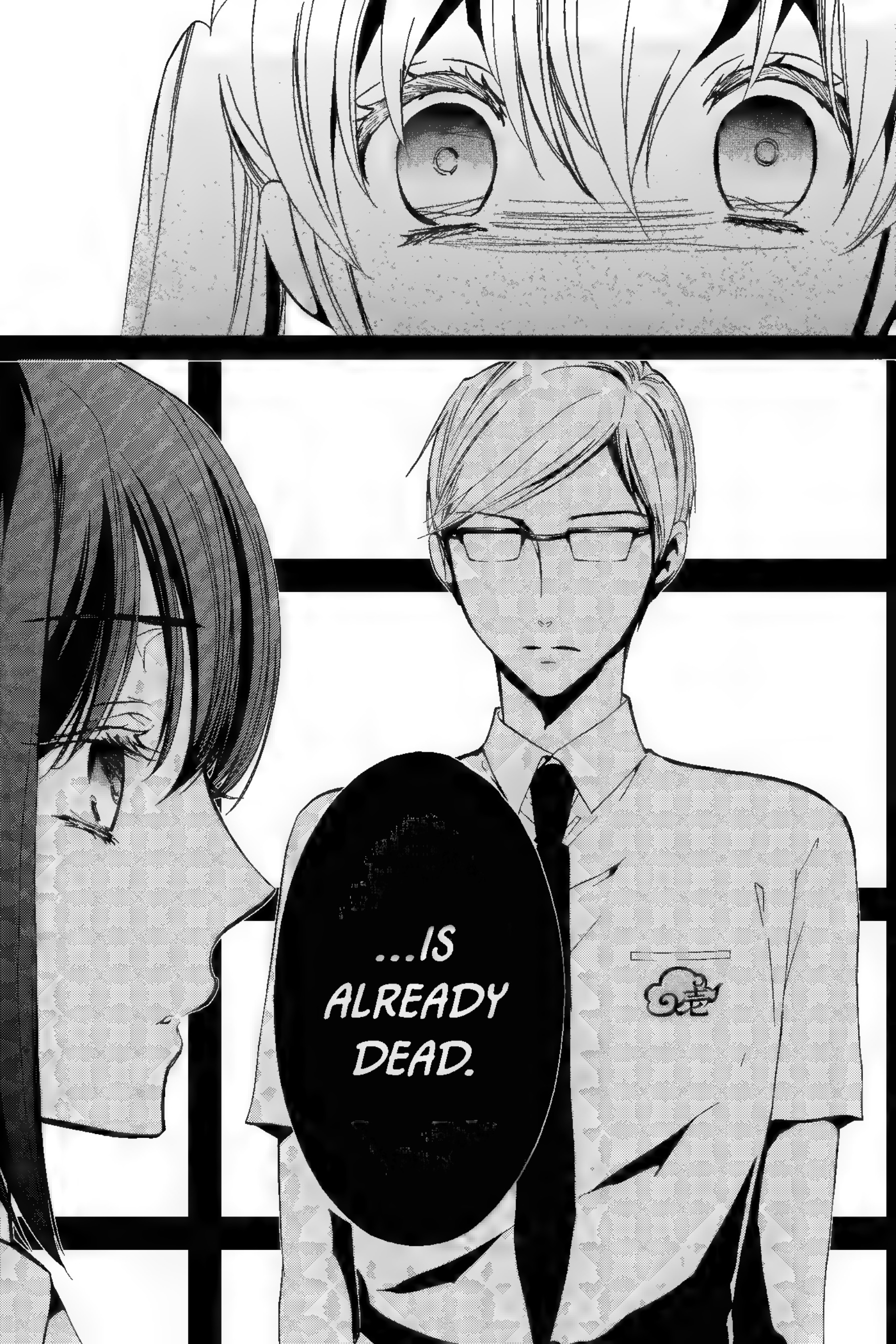
WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT HOW WE'D LIKE TO SEE HOW AOIKO LOOKS IN A KIMONO.

WELCOME BACK, HIMARI.

KLAK

ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS...

...WHO CAME HERE...


...IS
ALREADY
DEAD.

CHILLS

WHAT'S THE MATTER, HIMARI?

I NEED YOU TO FIGURE OUT WHO IT IS...

ONE OF THEM IS...

...SO THAT WE CAN GET THEM OUT OF THIS HOUSE.

NO.

IS IT A DEMON?!

I THINK IT'S PROBABLY A GHOST FROM THE SCHOOL.

IT'S NOT QUITE THERE YET.

AND BECAUSE IT'S YOUR GUEST, WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO STOP IT.

IT'S AS THOUGH IT'S BEEN PROTECTED BY A SPELL.

CAN WE COME IN ALREADY?

SURE THING!

...IT IS QUICKLY ABSORBING ENERGY FROM THE HOUSE AND TRANSFORMING INTO ONE.

BUT SINCE IT WAS INVITED INTO MOMOCHI HOUSE BY YOU, THE LANDLADY...

FIGURE OUT WHICH ONE OF YOUR GUESTS IS THE GHOST...

...AND ORDER IT TO GET OUT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT.

!

...IF YOU GUESS WRONG, THE SPIRIT WILL REALIZE WE KNOW AND GO WILD.

IT MAY HARM YOUR FRIENDS.

BUT HIMARI...

WHEN YOU DO, THE SPELL WILL BE BROKEN AND WE CAN DO SOMETHING TO FIX THE SITUATION.

ME?

NO WAY...

IF I DON'T FIGURE IT OUT, EVERYONE WILL BE IN DANGER.

WE'LL WORK ON ANOTHER WAY TO HANDLE IT...

IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT.

I'LL PROTECT YOU, HIMARI.

BESIDES...

I INVITED THEM IN, SO THIS ISN'T AOI'S BURDEN.

I'VE GOT TO DO THIS...

AOI...

NOD

IF HE TRANSFORMS INTO THE NUE, EVERYONE WILL REALIZE HE'S A GUY!

ONE OF THEM IS DEAD.

I DON'T WANT TO PUT EVERYONE IN DANGER.

THIS PLUM-FLAVORED SNACK IS SO TASTY!

REALLY? I'LL HAVE SOME TOO.

BUT HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIGURE IT OUT?

HOW DO I DO THIS?

EVERYONE IS EATING SNACKS.

BUT SPIRITS CAN EAT SNACKS TOO...

POOF

I HAVE TO BE MORE PERSISTENT.

I DON'T LIKE PLUMS VERY MUCH, BUT THIS IS PRETTY TASTY.

SAY...

...IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU DON'T LIKE? IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE FOOD.

HMM...

SPICY THINGS PERHAPS.

OH...

I CAN'T STAND BUGS.

MIRRORS...

I DON'T LIKE DARK PLACES...

HE'S PRETTY TIMID FOR AN OCCULT FREAK!

YOU DON'T LOOK WELL, IIZUKA. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

OH...

COULD IT BE HER?

HUH? IIZUKA IS ACTING KIND OF STRANGE.

MAY I USE YOUR RESTROOM?

I drank too much tea.

SLUMP

BLUSH

OF COURSE.

I'll show you the way.

WAS THAT ALL?

IT'S DOWN THIS HALLWAY.

SORRY, THIS HOUSE IS RIDICULOUSLY BIG.

NO, IT'S A LOVELY HOUSE.

I WISH I COULD LIVE HERE.

SHE'S VERY POLITE FOR HER AGE. COULD SHE BE THE ONE?

I'M JEALOUS OF YOU.

IIZUKA...

Y-YOU DO? THANKS.

IT MIGHT BE...

WAS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION?

OH

I SAW SOMETHING IN THE MIRROR.

WHAT'S WRONG, HIMARI?

KREE

HERE'S THE BATHROOM. IT'S JAPANESE-STYLE, WHICH IS KIND OF UNUSUAL NOWADAYS...

BUT...

IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL TRY NOT TO FALL IN.

SHE KIND OF ACTS LIKE SHE COULD BE DEAD...

NO, THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

I DON'T KNOW...

IS IIZUKA THE ONE WHO'S DEAD?

WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?

I NEED TO FIND CONCRETE PROOF.

KREE

IIZUKA?

SHE'S BEEN IN THERE A WHILE NOW...

SILENCE

?

NO WAY!

IIZUKA ?!

HIMARI ?!

TMP TMP TMP

GRAB

STAY BACK.

SHE'S NOT BREATHING...

IIZUKA...

IIZUKA!

THEN...

...IIZUKA IS THE ONE?

NO, IT'S NOT HER.

CHILLS

SUFF

THIS IS...

HER SOUL HAS BEEN REMOVED.

BUT IT'S STILL HERE.

THE ONE WHO'S DEAD IS STILL AMONG THEM.

ONE OF THOSE THREE...

A POOR SOUL DIED IN THE SCHOOL WISHING FOR...

...A FRIEND.

SOMEONE THEY COULD LOVE SO MUCH THAT THEY COULD JUST...

...EAT THEM UP.

SUCH A PITY.

SO WHAT SHALL YOU DO NOW...

...MY NUE?

LET'S PLAY.

Chapter 7 End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

OH?

IS IT ANOTHER RAT?

IT'S THE BORDER BETWEEN THIS WORLD AND THE NEXT.

BEYOND THE DEEPEST DEPTHS OF THE FOREST...

...ARE THE GATES OF MOMOCHI HOUSE.

AYAKASHI SNEER AT IT...

...AND HUMANS ARE DIS-TRESSED BY IT...

BONUS STORY

You May Enter

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT A HUMAN CHILD COULD BREAK THE SEAL?

WITHOUT A MASTER, MOMOCHI HOUSE HAS FALLEN INTO CHAOS.

WHAT'S THIS?

A CHILD?

TO HELP PASS THE TIME, I DECIDED TO WATCH HIM.

IT WAS AS THOUGH I HAD BEEN TRAPPED INSIDE BY FINE SPIDER WEBS.

BACK THEN, I WASN'T IN THE HOUSE BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE HERE.

THAT CHILD PROBABLY WILL BE EATEN BY A VILE DEMON SOON.

DOESN'T HE KNOW HOW TO CALL FOR HELP?

...AND YET HE CRIES QUIETLY.

HE'S SO FRIGHT-ENED...

HE'S STILL ALIVE.

SUFF

IF HE FALLS ILL, THE HOUSE WILL GET DIRTY.

HE'S BEEN EATING THE SNACKS THAT THE LESSER YOKAI HID AWAY. THEY WON'T LIKE THAT.

THERE WILL BE TROUBLE IF HE CONTINUES STEALING FROM THE LESSER YOKAI.

SEEING HIM IN THOSE FILTHY CLOTHES MADE ME DEPRESSED.

KLAK

WHAT'S THIS?

SNEAK

TMP TMP TMP

SO HE WASN'T STEALING THOSE SNACKS...

THIS MYSTERIOUS CHILD WHO IS ABLE TO CHARM AYAKASHI...

...SOON GREW ACCUS-TOMED TO LIVING IN THE HOUSE.

EVEN SO...

SUFF

OH

TING

TH-THANK YOU.

TING

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ALWAYS MAKES FOOD FOR ME, RIGHT?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

YOU CAN SEE ME?

YES.

IT SEEMS I CAN SEE PEOPLE AND THINGS THAT OTHERS CAN'T.

BUT...

...I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU BEFORE.

YOU MUST BE CAREFUL.

IF YOU SEE AYAKASHI TOO OFTEN...

...YOU'LL EVENTUALLY BECOME SOMETHING NON-HUMAN YOURSELF.

YOU'RE VERY KIND, AREN'T YOU?

...

I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT.

YOU CAN NEVER GO HOME...

It's *Momochi House* volume 2! As usual, it's packed with content while the commentary is confined to a teeny-tiny section. I'm so grateful you liked volume 1! In this volume, we had a story about Onmoraki and one about Yukari's past. I hope I can gradually reveal more about Momochi House and everyone there. Please continue reading.

石音あや
Iwaoto Aya
2013

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The promotional video that was produced for volume 1 was so beautiful that we played it over and over again as background music. So now I'm looking around for a soundtrack with a Japanese theme that suits ***Momochi House***!

-Aya Shouoto

Aya Shouoto was born on December 25. Her hobbies are traveling, staying at hotels, sewing and daydreaming. She currently lives in Tokyo and enjoys listening to J-pop anime theme songs while she works.

The Demon Prince of Momochi House

Volume 2
Shojo Beat Edition

Story and Art by Aya Shouoto

Translation JN Productions
Touch-Up Art & Lettering Inori Fukuda Trant
Design Fawn Lau
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